

Guest lecture: “Diagnosing Dying”

Speaker: Dr Sally Williams, Senior Consultant Central Adelaide Palliative Care Service, Level 9b Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woodville, SA.

Department of Medical Education, AIIMS, Rishikesh scheduled a Guest Lecture on 05 October 2017 delivered by Guest Speaker Dr Sally Williams, Senior Consultant Central Adelaide Palliative Care Service, Level 9b Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woodville, SA.

She is renowned consultant providing service to inpatients at Royal Darwin Hospital and provided direct care for patients in Hospice, since September 2005. This includes Specialist level palliative care to patients within community setting, including patients within Darwin region and those from top end of Northern Territory. She and her team assesses and manages symptom control, emotional, spiritual and cultural needs of each patient and contact with other members of multidisciplinary team is made to ensure supportive care needs of patient and their family are attended to during their admission to Palliative Care programme.

Her talk dealt with diagnosing dying, a complex clinical decision, and measures towards improving quality of care in last days and hours of life including introduction of multiprofessional integrated care pathways to benchmark standards and support delivery and evaluation of clinical care. Her lecture outlined importance of improving end-of-life care within current health and social care policy across countries. She brought forth importance of care and provision based on need rather than diagnosis. She also stressed on service providers ensuring that, when death is inevitable, every patient receives appropriate and timely end-of-life care, focused on comfort and dignity while avoiding futile and invasive interventions that prevent a peaceful death. Her talk highlighted importance of preparing and supporting family on how to cope with and adapt to bereavement.

Her talk was appreciated by all present and was regarded as much needed discussion to deal with doctor’s role in current social conditions in India.



